




**ROTARY CLUB OF
OCEANSIDE**

SHORELINES


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November 13, 2020

For the third straight Oceanside Rotary Zoom session, our meeting was officially started off at exactly 12:31 pm, this time by MELISSA RODRIGUEZ. (Gotta give both of our Co-Presidents points for consistency! ... And gotta wonder what they both are up to on Fridays that makes them run exactly one minute late, time and time and time again???)

The first order of business was hearing a **ROTARY MOMENT**. This week it was provided by PAM MYERS who noted that there are a lot of diverse opinions around our country nowadays. This seemed like a good excuse to recite some of the official mottos of a handful of our states. (A bit of a glitchy internet connection made for some verbal and video holes in her presentation, but we got to hear *most* of what PAM had to share.) Here are some of the mottos that were read to us (with some added asides tacked on because I couldn't help myself):



The United States: "In God We Trust" (The lesser used second part of this phrase is: "All others must pay cash.")

VIRGINIA: "Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Latin which translates to "Thus always to tyrants." History buffs will recall that these were the words uttered by Brutus after he killed Julius Caesar and also by John Wilkes Booth at the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.)

OREGON: "Alis volat propriis" (Latin for "She flies with her own wings" – A very New Agey, Oregony thing to say, right??)

HAWAII: "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono" (I don't think that this one is from Latin, but it translates to "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness")

CALIFORNIA: "Eureka" (The word that Archimedes shouted as he ran naked through the streets after a scientific discovery. It means "I have it!" ... In California's case, it refers to the discovery of gold)

UTAH: "Industry" (which is an appropriate phrase to assign to the Beehive State, since bees are notoriously industrious in their labors)

WYOMING: “Equal Rights” (Who would have thunk that such a cowboy state would have been the first to allow women the right to vote and to hold public office? Is that true? Ah-Yup!)

VERMONT: “Freedom and Unity” (One of the most popular flavors from Ben & Jerry’s, a famous Vermont business)

MASSACHUSETTS: “Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem” (Latin again, this time it stands for “By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty”)

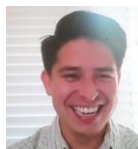
NORTH DAKOTA: “Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable” (This would have taken the prize for the State motto which uses the most words, had it not been for that pesky Iowa, whose motto is a full ten words long: “Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain”)

Thanks, PAM, for enlightening us with these key catch phrases from all over the country. Quite interesting!

The duty to read off the **CLUB UPDATES** this week was handled by our Co-President Elect, L.J. FIMBRES.

- The deadline for turning in Thank You notes for the fine folks at the Oceanside Police Department is Friday, November 20. Get your cards in to RENEE RICHARDSON by that date so they can be distributed in time for Thanksgiving.
- We also were reminded of the December 4 deadline for our donation drive for Women’s Resource Center (children’s toys, books, clothing, and shoes) and the Bread of Life Rescue Mission (Peanut butter, canned soup, canned chicken and tuna, canned fruits in natural juices). Your items can be dropped off at DALE MAAS’s office (2424 Vista Way, Suite 325, Oceanside) Mondays thru Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm.

VISITORS AND GUESTS



Co-Pres Elect L.J. then glanced around his Zoom screen to see who had joined us at this meeting. He found DEVONA BARTUSEVICS, GLENDA ROBINSON, and JAMIE BECK and was about to wrap up his introduction but then someone piped in with “What about RUDY?”, and so L.J. hailed our perennial guest RUDY VAN HUNNICK, too.

Co-President MELISSA asked TOM BRAULT to sing our traditional Welcome Song, but he sang it in a very non-traditional way! TOM mentioned how much he has missed seeing musical theater during this pandemic, and then offered up our Oceanside Rotary standard in the style of a



Broadway ballad. TOM claimed after he was done, “You will never hear this song sung that way again”, and I would imagine that some our members might have been glad to know this particular rendition was a “one shot deal”.

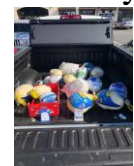
CO-PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MELISSA reinforced that we still need some folks to pitch in to our Thanksgiving project of giving “Thank You” cards to each OPD law enforcement officer. We will need 204 of them to cover all of “Oceanside’s Finest.” So far, 165 have been turned in, and several members pledged on the spot the number that they were planning to write up and turn in. We could always find a way to use ALL of the cards we might collect, even if we end up exceeding the 204 target, so by all means, please join in this effort to show our appreciation to the Police by writing a few heartfelt notes and getting them to our Secretary RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE before 11/20. Co-Prez MELISSA was able to directly report that an officer had told her that he had never received a personal, handwritten card of thanks at any time in his 12-year career. So, show your thanks and bring some “warm fuzzies” to a police officer’s heart!

Then MELISSA was able to update us on two of our other service projects which wrapped up recently. Beef jerky is the #1 most requested item in care packages sent through Operation Gratitude to deployed service members, and our club was able to exceed our 500-stick goal by collecting and sending in 565 pieces of protein. Many thanks to AMANDA SNIDER for taking the lead on this collection effort! ... And in breaking news, with Co-President DALE literally on the road after dropping off our Thanksgiving donation to Brother Benno’s, he reported that the generous members of Oceanside Rotary had turned in 15 frozen turkeys plus \$140 in grocery gift cards to help in the holiday meal for the homeless. (Considering the fact that the photo which DALE had sent to all of us just a short time before our meeting showed only 3 birds in the back of his truck, there must have been a flurry of frozen fowl coming in at the last minute.) Thanks to all who helped to make this Thanksgiving even better for those in need!

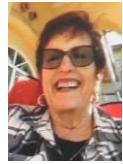
A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE “ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MONTH”

RENEE made sure we all knew that the month of November is officially RI Foundation month, which would be a great time to send a check written to "Rotary International Foundation" to her (Address = Renee Richardson Wendee, 720 Silver Drive, Vista, CA 92083) so you, too, can be supporting all the good things that the Foundation does around the world, all year



long. (If you would prefer to make your Foundation contribution through the Venmo app, make sure that you include a notation of how you want your money to be directed so we can be sure to get it into the correct account.)

Here is another suggestion: You can make it even easier on yourself going forward by signing up online to make ongoing, automatic contributions to the Foundation. (<https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>) Several of our members have done just that for a while now, and RENEE guessed that one of them probably wasn't even aware that she had hit a new milestone in giving, since her donations just keep on happening without her even having to think about it or do anything after this initial signup. Sure enough, VICKIE PROSSER was indeed surprised to hear that she had qualified for "Paul Harris Plus Three" status and would be receiving her new pin with 3 shiny sapphires soon. Congratulations, VICKIE! What a great example to us all!

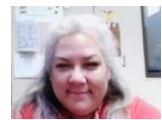


HOW SOME OF OUR MONEY IS BEING PUT TO USE

We raise money so we can do good things in our community, and this week we got to hear from one of the recipients of our generosity. Part of the money we pulled together through our District matching grant toward of our Literacy project went to



provide materials to Mission Elementary School. Principal GLENDA ROBINSON came to our Zoom meeting to thank the club for this contribution. She was glad to report that Oceanside Unified had reopened their schools on Monday on a "hybrid" basis – with students on campus for short days, two days a week and attending virtual online classes on the other three days. "It was great to see the smiling eyes of the children returning to the campus! They have been out since March." GLENDA then introduced their "amazing new librarian" DEVONA BARTUSEVICS who described the way our "wonderful donation" was spent. The school library has purchased some e-book subscriptions so that students can have access to reading materials online, both for pleasure and for specific study areas. She sent us this link to an online "Thank You" card from the students and staff at Mission Elementary. Check it out to see some of the kids that we have helped!



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Iu8I6D5io7Yk3FYB32VZnathxmDEh84G/view?usp=sharing>

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Who was celebrating in November? ... Well, we will tell you!

BIRTHDAYS:



DAVE HALL (Nov 1) “Not to give anything away, but I’m \$74 happy” which he rounded up to \$100 (to also cover some money that he had owed for our earlier Operation Gratitude bracelet project)

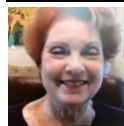
MIKE CURTIN (Nov 4)

LARRY HATTER (Nov 22)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

DALE and NIKKI MAAS will be celebrating their 4-year anniversary on November 26. “I married the most amazing woman, so I will be \$40 happy” for anniversary number four.

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:



TERRI HALL was \$40 happy that she has been in Rotary for a total of 29 years.

L.J. FIMBRES was \$20 happy for his “second year in action” in Rotary.

An 11-year club anniversary is being marked without a word (but with \$11 worth of Happy Dollars via the “chat” function) by the “Ever-silent LOLA SHERMAN.” (In case you are not aware of the reason for this nickname, LOLA’s Zoom connection does not allow her to have an audio or video feed, but she still is a regular attendee of our Zoom meetings even though she just appears as a black box on our screens. We miss your face and voice, LOLA!)

Our “Rock star in collecting jerky” AMANDA SNIDER was \$20 happy to have hit her one-year anniversary as a member.

Not reflected in the list that was on our meeting agenda, JAY CRAWFORD was



proud to add his name to this club anniversary roster, having been a member of Rotary for a total of 38 years, first joining in Corpus Christi, TX way back in 1982 and moving to a few other clubs in between before finally landing here at Oceanside Rotary. “I get around!”, JAY told us, as he pledged \$40 as a happy contribution commemorating his club anniversary.

MELISSA asked our Songster of the Day TOM BRAULT if, after such a creative Welcome Song, he had anything special to sing to our birthday and anniversary crowd. The best he could come up with on the fly was to say, “What JAY just said brings a song to mind that kind of covers moving on through the years” and he took a stab at singing a few lines from the Beach Boys tune “I Get Around” (... but that is just about all of the lyrics that he could remember.)



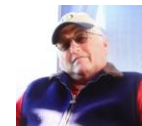
HAPPY DOLLAR TIME!!

Surprising absolutely no one, the first hand that shot up to be recognized for Happy Dollars was RUDY VAN HUNNICK who admitted that he was sad to have missed the last social meeting and gave \$50 this time around ... DAN WILSON had



missed out on last month’s birthday celebration, and so he gave the \$57 he would have offered then ... TOM BRAULT was \$20 happy to be celebrating the second wedding anniversary of his daughter ROBYN and suggested that BILL DERN (the father of her groom) might want to offer

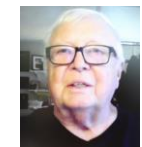
something as well – Nudge, nudge, hint, hint. Sure enough, BILL gladly matched TOM’s \$20 ... VICKIE PROSSER mentioned again that she truly had no clue that she had been tapped with a Paul Harris +3, and additionally she was \$50 glad that the election is over. Although “My boss didn’t win”, she wanted to thank JACK FELLER for his 20 years of service to Oceanside on the City Council. And VICKIE is really looking forward to her own retirement on December 10 ... ED PARISH gave \$50 “honoring VICKIE’s work on the newsletter.” A wee bit confused, VICKIE told him and us that



“Uh.... That’s a different club”, but ED still wanted to give the \$50 tribute ... JIM SCHRODER lamented the fact that, because of COVID,



we all had to skip the annual party at his house for the July fireworks and he told us in advance that this party may not happen in 2021 either, because he might be in the Arctic for a rescheduled adventure trip. He seemed surprised that he can say that he has been in that same house for 48 years, even though when he moved in, he had expected to be relocating from there after just a couple or three years. Time does march on! And JIM noted that one good thing in this pandemic is that he has had a chance to go through and get rid of some of his “accumulated stuff.” For all of this, he pledged \$100 to the RI Foundation ... DAVE SHORE was \$20 impressed by L.J.’s meteoric rise through Rotary Co-President Elect in just two years! My oh, my!!



Especially compared to DAVE’s own experience. “I think it took me two years to get my blue badge!” ... TINA ORTIZ figured that November being RI Foundation month was a good time to announce

that she already did indeed make the suggested \$110 annual contribution to this worthy cause, to help support the fine work that it does.

OUR PROGRAM



JANET BLEDSOE LACY, as our Program Chair, introduced JAMIE BECK, the President and Managing Attorney of Free to Thrive, a San Diego based non-profit. Today the focus of her presentation would be the impact of COVID on human trafficking victims and survivors. She started by saying that she has enjoyed “being with such a fun-loving and casual group.” Then she provided her definition of human trafficking: The exploitation of another person for commercial sex or labor through force or coercion. This is not to be confused with human smuggling (transporting persons across borders), which is a different crime. 80% of the sex exploitation victims are born in the U.S., but the human trafficking victims exploited for their labor are more likely to be undocumented persons from outside our country.

Free to Thrive provides legal services and connections to other supports to trafficking victims. Prior to COVID, they operated a mobile legal clinic that provided services around the county, but since the pandemic, they pivoted quickly to virtual online services. COVID has led to increased vulnerabilities due to job loss, economic hardship, homelessness, and abuse in homes, as well as an increase in grooming and online recruitment of children. Often the traffickers will make connection to kids through online games. This is why it is important to talk with our kids and grandkids about internet safety.

COVID has also led to Criminal Justice impacts on the human trafficking survivors. There is increased health risk in the jails they can end up in and more isolation of the incarcerated individuals since family members cannot visit in prisons as much. Court dates get postponed, and the right to a speedy trial has been suspended, since it is so difficult to hold a jury trial with so few members of the public showing up to serve a jury summons. There is a push for early release, particularly for low-level offenders, but the people released face more difficult conditions, with fewer supportive services and resources available to them and probation / parole requirements are more difficult for them to take care of. Free to Thrive aims to help them through these difficulties and keep them up to date on court cases.

There is a huge correlation / interaction between family law and domestic violence situations and human trafficking. In the current COVID climate, abusive

relationships are becoming increasingly strained and volatile, putting more potential victims at risk. To help these individuals, Free to Thrive provides:

- *Periodic welfare checks and safety planning
- *Status checks on shared custody arrangements
- *Temporary restraining orders
- *Emergency custody order assistance

One of their programs which JAMIE described is STEER (“Survivors of Trafficking Essential Emergency Resources”). It was created as an immediate response to the COVID pandemic to ensure that clients receive the supports they need to get them through the crisis in these uncertain times and beyond. It provides free, personalized, holistic, and trauma-informed one-on-one guidance for emergency resources and services. They have served 159 clients with over 200 needs with this program since the COVID outbreak started.

Free to Thrive has provided presentations to eight San Diego area Rotary clubs since 2018. They also held a full day workshop in September of 2019. Some clubs have chosen to make human trafficking one of their service focus areas. In 2020, an “Issues Based Rotary Club” was launched in L.A., and she is hopeful that the San Diego region may choose to start up an issues-oriented club like this as well. Some of what that club is doing can be seen at: rotariansfightinghumantrafficking.org JAMIE was proud to say that she herself has joined Rotary, and believes, “If Rotary can end polio, it can end human trafficking.”

How can WE help? JAMIE had a list of ideas for us.

- *Learn more about human trafficking
- *Educate others
- *Practice empathy and respect
- *Share resources
- *Provide gift cards for basic needs (especially important over the holidays)
- *Donate to non-profits
- *Get personally involved and put your experience and skills to use



JAMIE also recommended that we might want to view the short film which they produced called “A Starfish Story” The film itself runs 18 minutes and there are also remarks from San Diego community leaders and two incredible musical performances attached to it. It can be streamed on demand for just \$10 (as a fundraiser for Free to Thrive) at:

www.Vimeo.com/ondemand/astarfishstory

And more information about Free to Thrive and what it does can be found at:
www.freetothrive.org/news

There was time left for just a few questions. MELISSA RODRIGUEZ asked how their clients get referred to their programs. JAMIE answered that most referrals come through the jails. And BRIAN LONG suggested that, as a club social event, we might arrange to watch the film together online and discuss it afterwards. JAMIE said that would be a great idea and also mentioned that she is looking into how to make this film a resource available at the Rotary district level.



Wrapping up our meeting, Co-President MELISSA reminded us that our next evening Zoom social will be on Wednesday, November 18 starting at 5:30 pm. Friday, November 20 there will be a board meeting on Zoom at noon. All are invited to sit in and see what the board is up to. And our last meeting of this snakebit year of 2020 will be held on Friday, December 4. There will be a prize for the most festive holiday attire, so raid your closets and dressers and get garbed up accordingly.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!!!

RANDOM ROTARY ACT OF KINDNESS



It has been a while since we have featured one of these RRAK episodes, and it was particularly gratifying to have this one go to one of our members who has been spearheading this overall effort for the whole time. Look at what DAN WILSON had delivered to RENEE RICHARDSON WENDEE ... and it evidently arrived on an unlucky day when she really could use this kind of “pick me up.”

“Friday the 13th!

Left work, the Saturn wouldn’t start. It was towed! Came home to a lovely basket of cheese, wine and crackers!

Thank you Dan!”

COMING SOON TO OCEANSIDE ROTARY

Wednesday, November 18 – Zoom social meeting – 5:30 pm

Friday, November 20 – Deadline for sending Letters to First Responders (Police)
Note cards can be dropped off or mailed to RENEE at
720 Silver Drive, Vista, CA 92083

Friday, November 20 – Board meeting on Zoom – 12 noon

Friday, December 4 – Deadline for donations to Bread of Life Rescue Mission
(canned foods) / Women’s Resource Center (Toys and children’s clothing)
Drop donations at DALE MAAS’s Edward Jones office, weekdays from 8-4.
2424 Vista Way, Suite 325, Oceanside

Friday, December 4 – Last regular Zoom meeting of the year – 12:30 pm
Wear holiday clothing. There will be a prize for the most festive outfit!

